Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 EA-12 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 /125 W

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R 290545Z NOV 77 FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5512 INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS KIGALI 1597

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID, RW

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND AID TO RWANDA

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL EC REP, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECIDED ON NOVEMBER 11 TO FINANCE ROAD CONSTRUCTION BETWEEN KIGALI, RWANDA, AND KAYANZA, BURUNDI, IN TWO SECTIONS. THE KIGALI-BUTARE PORTION, 120.5 KILOMETERS LONG AND ENTIRELY IN RWANDA, IS EXPECTECTED TO COST 24.5 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT. THE BUTARE-KAYANZA PORTION, 52 KILOMETERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RWANDA-BURUNDI BORDER, WILL COST 11 MILLION UA, FINANCED FROM LOME CONVENTION REGIONAL FUNDS, SINCE IT INVOLVES TWO COUNTRIES. BOTH PORTIONS ARE BEING FINANCED ON A GRANT BASIS. BIDS ARE CALLED FOR BEGINNING THIS MONTH, THE CONTRACT TO BE AWARDED IN MARCH 1978, AND WORK TO BEGIN IN JULY 1978. IT IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN THREE YEARS.

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2. THE AXIS BETWEEN KIGALI AND BUTARE, RWANDA'S TWO LARGEST POPULATION CENTERS, IS THE MOST HEAVILY TRAVELED ROUTE IN THE COUNTRY. ONLY TWO RWANDAN TRUNK ROADS HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAVED, THE ROAD FROM KIGALI THROUGH RUSUMO TO THE TANZANIAN BORDER WAS COMPLETED THIS YEAR WITH FINANCING FROM THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA. AND THE ROAD FROM KIGALI TO BYUMBA (NEAR THE UGANDAN BORDER) IS

ALMOST COMPLETED UNDER WORLD BANK (IDA) FINANCING PLUS A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. BOTH OF THOSE ROADS (TOTALING ONLY ABOUT 200 KILOMETERS BETWEEN THEM) OWED THEIR HIGH PRIORITY TO THE NEED FOR BETTER ACCESS BETWEEN LANDLOCKED RWANDA AND INDIAN OCEAN PORTS -- IN TANZANIA VIA ROAD TO MWANZA AND TRAIN TO DAR-ES-SALAAM, AND IN KENYA VIA UGANDA TO MOMBIGWVK WHEN THE JUST-ANNOUNCED PROJECT IS COMPLETED, THERE WILL BE PAVED ROAD ALL THE WAY FROM KIGALI TO BUJUMBURA, SINCE THE PORTION FROM KAYANZA TO BUJUMBURA IS ALREADY PAVED. CRIGLER

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